

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 216426

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, JO, SA, US

SUBJECT: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE

REF: AMMAN 4511

1. DEPARTMENT DOES NOT PLAN TO VOLUNTEER ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT ABOUT AGREEMENT BEING REACHED ON FINANCING AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM FOR JORDAN. WE DO EXPECT, HOWEVER, THAT WORD OF THE PENTAGON LIFTING OF THE STOP WORK ORDER TO RAYTHEON WILL LEAK RAPIDLY TO TH PRESS AS RAYTHEON MOVES TO BEGIN WORK. DEPARTMENT WILL GIVE FOLLOWING ANSWER WHEN QUESTIONED:

QUESTION: HAS RAYTHEON BEEN TOLD IT CAN REOPEN THE PRODUCTION LINE OF HAWK MISSILES FOR JORDAN?

ANSWER: IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE DEPT. OF DEFENSE HAS TOLD RAYTHEON THAT PREPARATIONS CAN NOW GO FORWARD FOR WORK ON THE HAWK MISSILES ORDERED FOR SECRET

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- - JORDAN. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS NOW RE-

- - RECEIVED A WRITTEN REPLY FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF
- - SAUDI ARABIA - AGREEING TO FINANCIAL
- - ARRANGEMENTS TO FUND THE HAWK/VULCAN AIR DEFENSE
- - PACKAGE FOR JORDAN. WE ARE NOW WORKING ON THE
- - FINAL DETAILS OF THE PROGRAM.

TO ALL FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS ABOUT AMOUNT OF SAUDI PAYMENTS, METHOD OF PAYMENT, DELIVERY TIMES OF EQUIPMENT, DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN WILL RESPOND: "I HAVE SAID WE ARE STILL WORKING OUT THE FINAL DETAILS OF THE PROGRAM. I HAVE NOTHING MORE TO GIVE YOU AT THIS TIME."

2. DEPARTMENT SO FAR HAS BEEN STAYING WITH FOLLOWING ANSWER ON STATUS OF THE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM: "AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE, WE REMAIN PREPARED TO PROVIDE JORDAN WITH AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. THE PROSPECTS NOW LOOK PROMISING. DETAILS ARE STILL BEING WORKED OUT. BEYOND THAT I AM UNABLE TO COMMENT TODAY."

3. WE DO NOT RPT NOT WANT YOU TO PROVIDE JORDANIANS WITH INFORMATION ON FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS, PARTICULARLY FACT THAT WE MAY FROM TIME TO TIME BE DRAWING ON SAUDI UNITED FUND. WE NOTE THAT HUSSEIN DID NOT PRESS YOU FOR DETAILS. THE POINT IS THAT THE FUNDS WILL BE FLOWING IN REGULARLY IN AN ARRANGEMENT SATISFACTORY TO THE US AND SAUDI ARABIA, AND THAT THE ARRANGEMENT WILL ALLOW THE PROGRAM TO MOVE FORWARD RAPIDLY, WHICH IS HUSSEIN'S MAIN CONCERN. AMB. PORTER FEELS THAT WITH THE JORDANIANS WE SHOULD STICK TO WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO SAY, AND AMBASSADOR PICKERING AGREES. ROBINSON

NOTE BY OC/T: DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O, MR. PERITO
8/31/76.

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NNN

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